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BULLETIN

OF THE

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB

OCTOBER, 1911

The ferns and flowering plants of Nantucket—VIII

EUGENE P. BICKNELL

ROSACEAE (continued)

SPIRAEA LATIFOLIA (Ait.) Borkh.

Uncommon; a few small plants between Siasconset and Saul's Hills (1899) and west of Sankaty (1906); a considerable growth at Rotten Pumpkin Pond, in full flower, Aug. 11, 1906.

SPIRAEA TOMENTOSA L.

Scarce, but widely scattered; often undersized. Below the "Cliff"; Maxcy's Pond; the Woods; Polpis; Quaise.

FRAGARIA VIRGINIANA Duchesne.

Common in fields, thickets, and grassy places generally, sometimes in pure sand. First ripe fruit June 10, 1911, but some plants still in blossom June 15.

FRAGARIA VESCA L.

Well established in the thorn lot, growing with *Fragaria virginiana* in the grass along the fences. Green fruit and some remaining flowers June 19, 1910. Rather a small form of the species, the fruit hemispheric to subglobose.

ARGENTINA ANSERINA (L.) Rydb.

Found at one spot only, on the western side of the island near the south shore, close to a small pond lying between Hummock Pond and the life-saving station. Here, on June 7, 1910, a shallow grassy depression in the sandy plain, some seven by eight paces in extent, was starred with its earliest flowers. Flowers commonly smaller than those of *Argentina litoralis*, spreading 2–2.8 cm.,

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in color more of a lemon yellow, the petals not emarginate; larger leaves 2.5 dm. long with leaflets over 5 cm.; young leaves silvery sericeous on the upper surface, becoming bright light green and glabrate; roots simpler, stouter, and more woody than in *A. litoralis*, often subtuberous thickened.

*ARGENTINA LITORALIS Rydb.

Local about the borders of salt marshes along the harbor from Quaise to Polpis, also by Sachacha Pond; common in a brackish or nearly fresh meadow at Shawkemo; not found on the south shore. In full flower June 2, 1909, June 7, 1908, June 20, 1910; some plants still in bloom Aug. 5, 1906. Flowers variable in size, the largest having a spread of 3–3.5 cm.; petals deeper yellow than those of the preceding species, emarginate; leaves bright green and glabrous on the upper surface. Occasionally in moist places where the soil has been enriched by deposits of eelgrass, the plant takes on an unusually strong growth, the leaves becoming over 3 dm. long, with leaflets over 5 cm.; in harder or drier soils it is often notably reduced in size.

POTENTILLA ARGENTEA L.

Common in sandy fields, especially in the town region, but extending across the island from Madequet to Quidnet. Just in flower May 31, 1909, June 3, 1911, June 15, 1910; late flowers at one locality Sept. 19, 1909.

POTENTILLA MONSPELIENSIS L.

Not common, but occurring in nearly all quarters of the island, usually, however, solitary plants or only a few together. Found in waste spots and near cultivated land, as well as in low grounds at remoter places, as at Pout Pond, Wigwam Pond, and Pocomo Head Pond. Not yet in flower June 7, 1909; freshly in bloom June 18, 1909; a single plant bearing flowers Sept. 21, 1907.

POTENTILLA CANADENSIS L.

Common in fields and thickets. Freshly in flower May 30, 1909, June 3, 1911.

POTENTILLA SIMPLEX Michx.

Frequent in damp thickets and low grounds; first flowers June 2, 1909, June 7, 1908.

*POTENTILLA PUMILA Poir.

Common in dry open places in poor or sandy soil. Among the Miacomet pines, where the trees grow thickly and the soil remains damp beneath their protecting shade, there grows a form of this species, I do not determine it to be any other, which departs widely in appearance from the typical plant. It is marked by very delicate structure throughout, slenderly filiform and flexuous stems and pedicels, and rather large bright green leaves, the thinly pubescent leaflets becoming broadly cuneate-obovate and saliently dentate or incised mostly above the middle. With it occurs a form of *Potentilla canadensis* somewhat similarly modified but in less notable degree.

GEUM CANADENSE Jacq.

Rather common in thickets on the eastern side of the island from Shawkemo to Squam. A few plants remaining in flower by the middle of August, 1906; a single belated blossom Sept. 17, 1907. No flower buds visible up to June 26, 1910.

Note.—It appears that through an error now impossible to account for, the name *Geum virginianum* L. somehow found its way into Mrs. Owen's catalogue. Mr. F. G. Floyd has recently written to Mrs. Owen in regard to the status of this species as a Nantucket plant and has kindly sent me her reply, in which she entirely repudiates that entry in her list and expresses the wish that it be corrected. Mrs. Owen writes that she has consulted the original notes and records on which her catalogue was based, which contain no reference whatever to the plant in question, "which she never found herself or had reported by any body else from Nantucket."

AGRIMONIA GRYPOSEPALA Wallr.

A. hirsuta (Muhl.) Bicknell.

Frequent in thickets throughout the same section of the island occupied by *Geum canadense*, and often growing with it.

Conformity with the practise of the day leads me to use for this species the name given by Wallroth, an appropriate name indeed, but nevertheless one junior by some thirty years to that bestowed by Muhlenberg, whose good botanical eye first saw a distinctively American plant in our species hitherto viewed as a plant of Europe. The priority of Muhlenberg, however rejected by the rulings of the day and hour, may not, perhaps, for all botanical time be held in disregard. For it is not impossible to conceive that the course of nomenclatural reform in its ebb and flow may some day finally swing true to the line of organic morals, receiving for this plant, as for many another, the distinctive name by which it was first baptized into the annals of botany. In an early chapter of Genesis we find a primary if not now controlling law of nomenclature first laid down.

***Agrimonia Bicknellii** (Kearney) Rydb. comb. nov.

A. mollis var. *Bicknellii* Kearney.

Infrequent or rare; a few plants at the border of a thicket in Squam and at two stations in Quaise (1906), in full flower Aug. 13; Watt's Run bank June 15, 1908, a few plants not yet in bud.

ROSA CAROLINA L.

Common in swamps and low grounds.

ROSA VIRGINIANA Mill.

Abundant either in dry or moist soils, often massed in extensive growths and forming an entanglement of formidable character about the borders of low thickets and on banks passing down to pond holes or low grounds. First flowers June 17, 1908, June 17, 1910; not yet generally in flower June 23; a few flowers remaining Sept. 10, 1907.

*ROSA sp.?

I do not venture here to add a new name in a group of roses having already a too perplexed synonymy, and yet I would give express recognition to a rose closely allied to *Rosa virginiana*, which nevertheless seems to announce itself with some emphasis as being not the same. It is primarily distinguished by pyriform fruit, narrowed towards the base or decursive on the peduncle. In typical *Rosa virginiana* the broadly depressed globose fruit, expanded abruptly from the peduncle, contrasts notably with that of this Nantucket and Long Island rose, which is found growing with it, less often intermixed than in separate associated colonies. It remains to be determined whether forms appearing intermediate between the two represent natural transitions from one to the other or are a result of hybridization. It has not appeared that the marked differences in the fruit are attributable to the presence of a fungus or to insect agency.

As compared with *Rosa virginiana* typical examples of this associated rose differ in their more slender, straighter, and longer infrastipular spines and less numerous prickles; numerous often crowded leaves, smaller and narrower more membranous stipules and leaflets, the latter more narrowed to the base and finely serrate with very acute teeth, dark green and shining above, pale or lighter green beneath; flowers fewer and less clustered, commonly 1–3, not large, spreading about 5 cm., the petals deeply emarginate; fruit lighter red, more or less pyriform, or tapering into the peduncle, contracted or narrowed to a smaller orifice and with thicker walls; calyx lobes densely glandular, often much elongated, narrow, in fruit often widely ascending or suberect, commonly lobed much as in *Rosa humilis*.

*ROSA CINNAMOMEA L.

Several scattered plants along an old field south of the town, June 12, 1908, just in flower.

ROSA RUBIGINOSA L.

First observed in 1904, a clump over five feet high in an old field north of the town, where it must have been established for many years; fence corner west of the town; two clusters in a field southwest of Millbrook Swamp (1908); a single bush on the county fair grounds (1909).

*ROSA RUGOSA Thunb.

Straying energetically from cultivation and sometimes appearing far from planted grounds. A single plant by the roadside north of the town, first observed in September 1899, had become a conspicuous growth in 1904. Up to that time this rose had not been noticed elsewhere outside of cultivation except in a neglected lot above the "Cliff," where it had long been established and where it has spread extensively in recent years. In 1908 it had sprung up in several places by fence borders in the neighborhood of the town and was observed on the bluff at Siasconset. The following year single clusters were found at Shawkemo and at as remote and desolate a spot as among the sand dunes in the southwestern extremity of the island. An even more remote station was the sandy shore of Tuckernuck, where a fine cluster in full flower was observed on June 17, 1911. In 1910 an isolated patch flowered in a meadow below the "Cliff." First flowers June 1, 1909, June 3, 1911.

The tenacity with which this rose keeps its foothold when once rooted is well shown by a vigorous cluster, which was found in 1907 flowering on the exposed ocean front on the south shore of the island, at the site of the old Surfside hotel. The hotel, I am told, was demolished in 1901 and had been abandoned some years earlier, and this rose remained the sole vestige of the planting that had brightened the wind-swept and barren spot nearly a decade before.

*PYRUS COMMUNIS L.

Occasionally met with in a wild state, sometimes in far out of the way places. Small trees are frequent in pine scrub south and southeast of the town. A single tree, about seven feet high, grows in a wild thicket towards Quidnet, and a small tree similarly isolated was found in Squam. The only wild tree met with, bearing fruit, grows among scattered pines on the commons, perhaps two miles east of the town; on June 14, 1911, it was about nine feet in height and measured eighteen inches around, six inches above the base.

*MALUS MALUS (L.) Britton.

Frequent among the pines along the old south road, where, I was told, it produces an abundance of small fruit; occasional by roadsides and in old fields, often in a dwarfed or straggling condition; Squam; Surfside road; on the bluff at Siasconset; a tree about fifteen feet high in woodland at Beechwood. Still in blossom June 1, 1909.

ARONIA ARBUTIFOLIA (L.) Medic.

Common in low thickets and pond borders as well as in perfectly dry soils, even in pine woodland. Just in bloom May 30, 1909; everywhere in conspicuous blossom June 17, 1911.

*ARONIA ATROPURPUREA Britton.

Common in dry open places as well as in low grounds. Often untypical, indicating an involved relationship with the preceding. First flowers May 30, 1909; some blossoms remaining June 15, 1910.

*ARONIA NIGRA (Willd.) Britton.

Infrequent, boggy spots near Gibbs Pond; Wigwam Pond; west of Sachacha Pond; near Long Pond; Quaise; Siasconset; a solitary cluster, perfectly typical, in a dry pine grove on the Surfside road. First flowers May 30, 1909. Petals sometimes rose color in drying.

AMELANCHIER CANADENSIS (L.) Medic.

Thickets and banks, mainly on the eastern side of the island; pine barrens east of Hummock Pond, some flowers as late as June 12, 1909. The largest examples, found at Beechwood and in Quaise, were 15–20 inches in circumference and were estimated to be twenty to twenty-five feet in height, their leaves becoming as large as 11 cm. long by 6 cm. wide, many of them deeply cordate. One of the stoutest examples of the species I have ever seen was met with on Tuckernuck, June 17, 1911; although not more than twenty feet tall it measured forty-two inches around near the base, and thirty inches around above the first fork of the trunk.

It was unexpected to find thriving on Nantucket a tree having elsewhere so strong a bent for wooded hillsides and rocky surroundings. Here the absence of such conditions has forced it occasionally into low thickets in association with *Amelanchier oblongifolia;* and, growing with the typical forms, there occur others difficult to assign as between one and the other of these Juneberries. With two so closely related species placed in association, intercrossing might well be expected, and these intermediate forms are perhaps thus to be explained.

*AMELANCHIER OBLONGIFOLIA (T. & G.) Roem.

Common in low thickets. Full racemes of flowers as late as June 3, 1909; other individuals out of bloom and bearing green fruit by May 30. Petals 8–14 mm. long by 2.5–4 mm. wide. The largest tree observed was in a wet thicket in Pocomo and measured twenty-three inches in circumference about a foot above the base.

***Amelanchier nantucketense** sp. nov.

An erect, at length compactly much branched and very leafy shrub 1.5 dm. to 2 m. high, the bark of the younger parts purplish brown becoming dark gray; leaves often crowded, firm, thickened at maturity, dark bluish green on the upper surface with a subglaucous bloom, at length shining, pale beneath, especially at full maturity, those of the woody branches commonly small, often only 2–3 cm. long and 1.5–2 cm. wide, oval or elliptic and abruptly rounded at each end, or broadened above and more or less cuneate at the base, finely and acutely serrulate or serrate, especially above, often entire towards the base, in vernation densely rufescent or white-tomentulose, especially on the lower surface, early becoming glabrous beneath but long retaining scattered hairs on the upper face; petioles mostly 1–1.5 cm. long, soon glabrous; leaves of the shoots and young branches becoming 5 cm. or more long and broad, many cuneate-obovate and coarsely dentate-serrate, the primary veins with rather broad interspaces; racemes numerous, short, erect, terminating short leafy branchlets 2–5 cm. long, which are erectly disposed along short or elongated erect or ascending branches, the axis and pedicels early glabrous; flowers 6–14, crowded in small spikelike racemes; pedicels firm, somewhat clavate, mostly 1–1.5 cm. long; calyx lobes rather narrow, lanceolate, acute or attenuate, early reflexed; petals very small, narrowly linear or spatulate, frequently involute, 3–4 mm. long, 1 mm. wide distally; fruit small, globose, reddish purple, slightly glaucous, the surface of the ovary glabrous.

Common on Nantucket in low grounds about the borders of swamps, as well as on the dry moorland and in pine barrens. Passing out of bloom towards the end of May, belated flowers sometimes remaining into the second week of June. Young fruit also at the end of May, becoming mature a month later.

Type near Reed Pond, May 30, 1909, in flower and young fruit; young fruit and leaves of young branch June 10, 1908, in the herbarium of the N. Y. Botanical Garden.

Almost the first one of the not readily determinable plants of Nantucket which drew my attention on my earlier visits to the island is the Juneberry here described. This shrub has since been referred by Dr. B. L. Robinson, on the basis of specimens collected on Nantucket by Judge J. R. Churchill, in 1904, to his new var. *micropetala* of *Amelanchier oblongifolia*, the type of which was from "ledges towards the summit of Blue Hill, Milton, Mass." (Rhodora **10**: 33. 12 Mr 1908.) I have not been able to convince myself that the low and small-flowered Juneberry which finds its home on ledges and exposed rocky places is the same as the seemingly very local and coastwise Nantucket shrub. The rock-loving species is the plant described by Dr. N. L. Britton under the name *Amelanchier spicata* (Lam.) Dec. It is common along the crest of the Palisades of the Hudson River, growing on the most exposed ledges, and is found also rooted in the crevices of rocks on Manhattan Island as well as in similar situations in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. A number of years ago this plant was made the subject of careful study by Doctor Britton and myself and we could then reach no other conclusion than that it was an unrecognized species. Subsequently Doctor Britton consulted, at Paris, the type of Lamarck's plant and was satisfied that it established the identity of our saxicolous species.

A character of this plant (*A. spicata*), although not of primary import, nevertheless having a suggestive value, is the white woolly exposed surface of the ovary. By this the plant would seem to be allied to *Amelanchier rotundifolia* (Michx.) Roem. [*A. sanguinea* (Pursh) Lindl.], and additional evidence of such relationship is seen in the form taken occasionally by the leaves and in the pronounced close venation which they sometimes develop. *Amelanchier nantucketense*, on the other hand, is undoubtedly in closer relationship with *Amelanchier oblongifolia* and, like that species, has the top of the ovary nearly or quite glabrous. Both are to be found growing together on Nantucket, displaying contrasts of leaf and flower which I do not think have been given undue recognition in the disposition here made of the new plant. A Juneberry collected in a bog at Long Pond, Aug. 12, 1906, growing with this species and with *A. oblongifolia*, appears to be intermediate between them and is quite probably a hybrid.

CRATAEGUS

It appears that, instead of a single species of white thorn, which it has been supposed was the sole representative of its group native on Nantucket, four or quite possibly five native species belong to the island's flora. One of these, *Crataegus pruinosa* (Wendl.) C. Koch, grows also on Tuckernuck Island and on Chappaquiddick Island, Marthas Vineyard; another, *Crataegus chrysocarpa* Ashe, of which only a single shrub was met with on Nantucket, is on Marthas Vineyard rather frequent; still another, *Crataegus Bicknellii* Eggleston, frequent on Nantucket, is not known to occur anywhere else. The comparison is interesting, that of four species collected on Marthas Vineyard two have not been found on Nantucket, one of which, *Crataegus schizophylla* Eggleston, is, so far as we now know, endemic on Marthas Vineyard, paralleling the case of *Crataegus Bicknellii* of the more eastward island. It should be said that these two endemic thorns are not at all closely related, belonging, indeed, to very different sections of their group.

For the determinations of all the species I am indebted to Mr. W. W. Eggleston, who has kindly examined my entire series of *Crataegus* specimens collected prior to the present year, and supplied the names here employed.

CRATAEGUS CRUS-GALLI L.

Mrs. Owen, in her catalogue, speaking of the cockspur thorn, says "a hedge enclosing a tract of land west of the town, set out by William Henry Gardner about 1830", and adds "no wild plant has yet [1888] been reported on the island." A decade later the status of this thorn on Nantucket had undergone considerable change. It was found in 1899 that low bushes and small trees had established themselves here and there by roadsides and in old fields and thickets, west and southwest of the town, extending as far as Hummock Pond and the western edge of Trot's swamp. The species is, however, spreading very slowly, and more recent years have witnessed little increase in its numbers. The largest of these wild trees grows at the border of Millbrook Swamp and in 1904 was estimated to be over ten feet in height. There is also a colony of trees in the town, at the foot of the "Cliff," and an old tree surrounded by a numerous scattered progeny among the pines on the site of the old O'Connell farm. This tree has a basal girth of thirty-three inches, and from its size would appear to be contemporaneous with the old Gardner trees. The original hedge of over three quarters of a century ago is still in existence, skirting a grassy tract of rather low ground which has come to be known as the thorn lot. The larger of these trees, gray and shaggy with age, must be rather more than twenty feet in height although many of them are scarcely over half that stature; a few are less than a foot in circumference near the base, but some of the trunks are of much greater size, the largest having a basal girth of nearly forty-five inches.

This introduced species comes into bloom about two weeks later than any of the native Nantucket thorns; first flowers June 17, 1908, June 15, 1910, June 16, 1911.

*CRATAEGUS CHRYSOCARPA Ashe.

C. rotundifolia of the manuals.

A single compact bush about eight feet high, formed of several trunks, grows in a roadside thicket close to the boundary between Quaise and Polpis. It was first observed June 9, 1909, then passing out of bloom, most of the corymbs having lost their petals. Close to it a group of the following species was white with freshly opened blossoms. No other individual of this thorn was met with, nor was any other white-anthered species found on Nantucket. This seems to be the earliest flowering of the island's native thorns. Its leaves and flowers are smaller than those of any of the other species.

*CRATAEGUS BICKNELLII Eggleston.

Discovered on Aug. 16, 1906, in Squam near the Quidnet road; a scattered group of treelike shrubs, the tallest about eight feet high. It was subsequently found in dry thickets or adjoining open ground in Shawkemo, Quaise, Polpis, and Squam, altogether at twelve or more separate stations in the northeastern quarter of the island. The largest examples are of the proportions of small trees, having a strong main trunk 12 to 14.5 inches in girth near the base. It flowers profusely, however, at a height of four to six feet while still having the conformation of a shrub. In full blossom June 7, 1908, June 9, 1909, June 10, 1911; first flowers June 4, 1909; red fruit Sept. 17, 1907. Flowering rather later than any other of the island's native thorns and more conspicuous when in full blossom. Flowers spreading 2–3 cm.; leaves more coriaceous and shining than those of any other of the native species and more deeply and acutely lobed; thorns stouter.

*CRATAEGIUS PRUINOSA (Wendl.) C. Koch.

Found in the same parts of the island occupied by *Crataegus Bicknellii* and in similar situations, but rather more widely spread. In only one instance were the two species seen actually together, although in several cases they occupied adjacent thickets. The nearest points to the town, where it was observed, are on the commons less than one and a half miles to the east, and near the shore at Shimmo Creek. On an exposed knoll, it here forms a close low growth among scrub oak and beech plum and was in full blossom

June 2, 1910. Farther east, in a more protected thicket beyond Abram's Point, it reaches a height of ten feet and seems to bloom a few days later; isolated groups occur also in thickets in Quaise, in Shawkemo, at Pocomo Head Pond, where it was passing out of bloom June 12, 1909, and at several localities in Squam. A small colony was also discovered on Tuckernuck, on a visit made to that island on June 17, 1911. Flowers spreading 1.75–2 cm.; the petals sometimes tinged with pink; leaves thinner than in any other of the Nantucket species, the thorns longer and more slender. Well developed green fruit was collected June 26, 1910. A tree growing at the border of Dyleave Swamp was perhaps the largest native thorn tree seen on the island, having a height of perhaps fourteen feet and a spread of six paces.

Specimens from several of the stations show rather well marked differences and may represent more than one species. Mr. Eggleston considers it unsafe to express an opinion on this point until mature fruit is collected. Specimems from the Abram's Point station differ from all the others in having slightly pubescent to loosely villous corymbs.

There is also a form of *Crataegus* on Nantucket that I have collected at three stations, in Shawkemo, Wauwinet, and Squam, which is almost certainly distinct from *Crataegus pruinosa*, having more deeply and acutely lobed leaves of firmer texture, stouter thorns, and rather larger flowers, the number of stamens sometimes less than twenty and even reduced to ten or twelve. All of these are characters that would be derivable from *Crataegus Bicknellii*, and it would seem to be quite possible that this ambiguous thorn is a hybrid of that species and *Crataegus pruinosa*. I do not myself, however, dare venture into the taxonomy of our wild thorns, and up to the moment of going to press have had no opportunity of submitting this case to the expert judgment of Mr. Eggleston.

*CRATAEGUS MACROSPERMA Ashe.

A group of about thirty small trees in a low thicket in Squam, forming a sort of miniature contracted grove, perhaps twelve to fifteen yards in longer extent. The trunks of the larger of these trees are straight and erect and mostly unbranched below, or with the branches ascending, so that it is possible to walk about among them. There are also a few outlying small shrubs. On June 11, 1909, these trees were in full blossom above, the petals mostly fallen from the corymbs on the lower branches. Flowers 1.5–1.8 cm. in natural spread, the petals drying pinkish; stamens 5–7. More treelike than any other native Nantucket thorn, the largest examples ten to thirteen inches in circumference near the base and twelve to fourteen feet tall. Branches more ascending than in any of the other Nantucket species, the leaves less deeply lobed and on the upper surface more or less roughened with an hispidulous pubescence; corymbs and young fruit villous, the flowers with fewer anthers than any of the other species.

Note.—Mrs. Owen's catalogue includes "*Crataegus tomentosa* L. var. *punctata* Gray." It is scarcely probable that the species intended was any other than some one of those here reported.

PRUNUS SEROTINA Ehrh.

Common; not ordinarily of a greater height than ten or twelve feet and often much lower, in the most favorable situations reaching a height of eighteen to twenty feet. The bark of the trunk is sometimes unusually smooth and pale. In full blossom from before the middle of June until the end of the month.

PRUNUS MARITIMA Wang.

Very common, occurring in all parts of the island, even on Saul's Hills. In full blossom May 30 to June 15, 1909, and some blossoms remaining as late as June 22. Of unusually large size in a thicket near Tristram Coffin's homestead, the largest example about 10 feet tall and 15.5 inches around near the base.

*PRUNUS AVIUM L.

Spontaneous at several stations among young pine trees south and southwest of the town, also in pine scrub about two miles out on the old south road. No trees observed over ten feet in height and some bearing fruit when only three feet high.

*PRUNUS CERASUS L.

Here and there about long-abandoned farms and occasionally in wilder places, as in a thicket in Shawkemo with *Crataegus Bicknellii*, and among pines perhaps a mile southeast of the fair grounds; thicket in Squam.

*AMYGDALUS PERSICA L.

Spontaneous in waste spots about the town and occasionally at more distant points; on the bluff at Siasconset; one small tree on the old south road, about two miles from the town; a single tree about ten feet high at the border of a thicket in Squam.

*PRUNUS AMERICANA Marsh.

A small colony among pines on the road to Surfside, about a mile from the town, some of the trees very young, others about eight feet high; doubtless introduced. Still in blossom June 6, 1909.